Troopers Warn Public About Leaving Disabled Vehicles Unattended- New Castle County

New Castle County- Delaware State Police warn the public about leaving disabled vehicles unattended along New Castle County roadways.

Over the past several weeks, troopers in New Castle County have taken an increased number of motor vehicle theft reports. These vehicles become disabled, and the driver leaves them unattended on the side of the road. When the driver returns to retrieve the vehicle, they discover it has been stolen. This crime is a crime of opportunity, and there is no certain type of vehicle being stolen or length of time the vehicle is being left unattended.

To avoid becoming a victim, the Delaware State Police offer the following safety tips:

- If your vehicle becomes disabled, pull to the shoulder of the road in a very visible location if possible.
- Call for a tow truck or roadside assistance immediately.
- Do not leave your vehicle unattended on the side of the road. Wait with your vehicle until help arrives.
- If you must leave your vehicle, close all windows and lock all doors. Also, turn your wheels toward the curb/edge of the roadway and engage the parking brake. This technique makes it more difficult for a thief to tow your vehicle.

The Delaware State Police hope by following these simple safety tips, you can avoid becoming a victim.

Anyone with information regarding these thefts of motor vehicle cases, please contact with the Delaware State Police

Troop 2 Criminal Investigative Unit by contacting Detective James Dempsey by calling 302-365-8472. Information may also be provided by calling Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333 or via the internet at http://www.delaware.crimestoppersweb.com.

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Please tell us how we're doing via our Citizen Satisfaction Survey.

Presented by Public Information Officer, Master Corporal Heather Pepper

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